



The Neighborhood Insider

August 10, 2015

Summer - Volume 6, Number 2

City of El Paso – Community & Human Development Department – Neighborhood Services Division

Quarterly Newsletter for Recognized Neighborhood Associations

From the City of El Paso Strategic Plan

Vision Statement:

El Paso will have safe and beautiful neighborhoods, a vibrant regional economy, and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities.

Mission Statement:

Deliver outstanding services to support a high quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors.

This newsletter furthers Strategic Goal #5:

Promote transparent and consistent communication among all member of the community.

Inside This Issue:

- News and Updates from Neighborhood Services
- Neighborhood Association Ordinance
- Neighborhood Association Library – Book Review
- Message from EPNC
- City Department Highlight – El Paso Zoo
- Community Awareness

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News and Updates from Neighborhood Services

By Olivia Montalvo-Patrick, Senior Planner

Congrats to the 9th Neighborhood Leadership Academy

The City of El Paso recognized forty participants who successfully finished the Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) by dedicating their time to a 19 week program to learn about their local government through various City department presentations and on-site field trips to City facilities.

“I would recommend this program to anyone who wants a better understanding on how the current City government operates,” said Robert Johnstone, a recent NLA graduate.



To date a total of 341 participants have completed the NLA program. Enrollment for the next class opens in December 2015.

Round 3 Neighborhood Improvement Program

Applications for the 3rd Round of the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) are now available. The NIP allows for neighborhood associations to apply for physical improvements in their neighborhood. Contact Neighborhood Services for more information.

Save the Date for 11th Annual Neighborhood Summit

The Neighborhood Summit is a free public event to recognize and promote community involvement of residents and neighborhood associations. Invite your association members to take part in the workshops, gather information from local service providers, learn from guest speakers, network with other neighborhood associations, and enjoy a free lunch.

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: 9600 Sims. Y.I.S.D. Central Office

Neighborhood Association Ordinance Highlight

QUIZ

Test your knowledge of the City's Neighborhood Association (NA) Ordinance

1. In order for an association to be “in compliance” with the ordinance, the association must submit an annual report by July 30th each year.
True ☐ False ☐
2. Associations must hold quarterly meetings in order to be in compliance with the ordinance.
True ☐ False ☐
3. An Association will receive notice of a requested rezoning for a property that is located 200 ft. outside their recognized association boundary.
True ☐ False ☐

By Mark Weber, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Complete the quiz to the left before reading on.

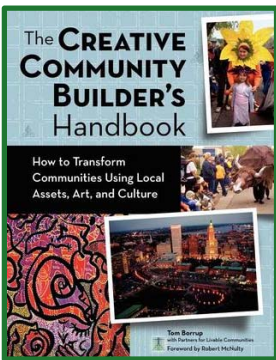
It is important for all associations to understand the NA Ordinance. The answers to the quiz are as follows:

1. Answer: False. **2.102.040 Filing of Application for Recognition Status - Section E.** “The annual report shall be filed with the permit official no later than June 30 of each year.”
2. Answer: False. **2.102.050 Responsibilities of Recognized Neighborhood Associations - Section C.** “Hold at least one general membership meeting per year, for which it makes a reasonable attempt to give prior written notice to residents and places of business within the boundary regardless of membership status.”
3. Answer: False. **2.102.070 Services Available to Recognized Neighborhood Associations - Section D.** “Written notice to the official representative(s) of a recognized neighborhood association regarding any land use application submitted to the City, which contains property lying partially or wholly within the boundary of the particular recognized neighborhood association.”

Neighborhood Association Library – Book Review

By Jane Tomchik, Neighborhood Outreach Specialist

Community Development – Neighborhood Services has a new collection of books on developing community organizations and leadership skills for use by our Neighborhood Associations. You may check out any of these books by coming into our offices and signing the book out. We are requesting that books be returned within 60 days. Each quarter, we will feature one of the books with a summary and any feedback we have received.



The Creative Community Builder's Handbook: How to Transform Communities Using Local Assets, Art and Culture By Tom Borrup

If there ever was a community with a varied and colorful cultural history, it is El Paso. We also have in place many strategies for using our unique Arts and Culture to stimulate economic and social development. From the plans for the Mexican American/Hispanic Cultural Center to the setting aside of 2% of funds for publicly-funded projects to Public Art, to the one-of-a-kind Digital Wall, we are uniquely positioned to engage in “Creative Community Building.” While this handbook focuses on the larger community overall, there are a number of community building

activities that Neighborhood Associations can spearhead to develop a neighborhood's sense of place and community through art. For example:

- Apply for a Neighborhood Improvement Project that includes an Art element.
- Sponsor a “Cultural Roots” festival in a neighborhood park.

What is special about *your* neighborhood? What would *you* like to celebrate? Come on in to Neighborhood Services and check out Tom Borrup's handbook for more ideas and inspiration.

Message from the El Paso Neighborhood Coalition (EPNC)

By Richard Teschner, Central Planning Area – Neighborhood Council Member Alternate

Election Time! EPNC to Hold Three Elections at the Neighborhood Summit on Sept. 12th

At the annual Neighborhood Summit, members of the EPNC will nominate and elect a Neighborhood Council Chair (NCC). Also to be nominated and elected are Representatives for each of the following Planning Areas: (1) Northwest, and (2) Northeast. (Representatives from the remaining three Planning Areas—Central, East, and Mission Valley—will be elected at next year's Summit.)

The neighborhood associations from each planning area will join together from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. to conduct elections for their respective Representatives. (This means that all Northwest associations meet in one room, and all Northeast associations meet in another room.) Nominations and the election for the NCC will take place from 12:15-12:30 p.m., and everyone present at the Summit will take part. No Planning Area Representative may serve for more than four consecutive years, which equals two separate terms in office. The same applies to the NCC: no more than four consecutive years equaling two separate terms in office.

(Neighborhood Summit – Saturday, September 12th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Ysleta ISD Central Office)

Neighborhood Council:

East/Interim Chair – Emmanuel Echeverria, (915) 820-6975 **Northeast** – Sam Thompson, (915) 822-1892

Central – Pablo Lopez (915) 502-1222

Northwest – Chris Goodwin, (915) 539-8823

Mission Valley – Sylvia Carreon, (915) 227-2738

SAVE THE DATE!

EPNC Monthly Meetings

3rd Mondays of the Month

Time: 6pm-7pm

Location: 701 Montana Ave.

Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center

City Department Highlight – El Paso Zoo

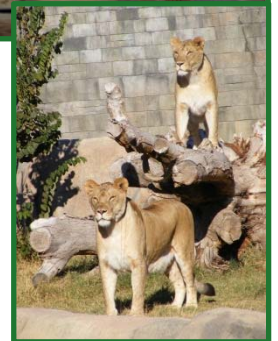
The El Paso Zoo's **mission** is to celebrate the value of animals and natural resources, and to create opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature.

Bigger and better than ever, the El Paso Zoo is an expansive, 35-acre green space that is home to exotic animals from around the world. Locally recognized as the "Best Place to Take the Kiddos", the Zoo features family attractions such as: the African Star Train, the Hunt Family Desert Spring Water Feature and the Foster Tree House Playground.

There's always something to do at the Zoo – feed a giraffe, watch keepers train a sea lion or an elephant. Through the summer, giraffe feedings with the three male giraffes, *AJ*, *Bonsu* and *Juma*, are *Wednesday through Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.* Guests love interacting with the giraffes, but watch out for those 15-inch black tongues – the boys will take the leaves right out of your hands. The sea lion presentation is *Saturday to Monday at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.* daily. Guests can also enjoy elephant training or come and "Meet the Keeper" to get an exclusive, behind the scenes perspective from the animal experts.

Upcoming Event – The **Elephant Festival** (September 12th and 13th at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) is our annual event to celebrate elephants worldwide with, literally, TONS of elephant fun! Special tours and keeper talks allow visitors to get behind the scenes information about the elephants and other animals. Booths, entertainment and activities will be available for all to enjoy throughout the day. So, after attending the Neighborhood Summit that Saturday, come to the Zoo Sunday!

For more information visit: www.elpasozoo.org or **Call** (915) 212-0966





recognized as a model practice by the National Association of City and County Health Organizations

During the past two years, the **Extreme Weather Task Force** (EWTF) has collected and delivered 1,245 free fans to qualifying elderly and needy families in our community. Those in need of a fan (who meet EWTF criteria) should **call 211**.

New fan donations can be dropped off any time at local fire stations. Corporate and monetary donations are welcome and payable to the **APS Silver Star Board**. (The APS Silver Star Board mailing address is 401 E. Franklin Ave, Suite 350, Attention Grace Ortiz, El Paso, Texas 79901)

To help save lives, the EWTF stresses use of the **"Buddy System."** This simply involves having a trusted relative, friend or neighbor check in daily with an elderly or disabled person during a heat wave. If adequate cooling is unavailable in a home, the EWTF recommends individuals go to one of the designated **cool zones** in our community. These "cool zones" include public libraries, indoor shopping malls and senior citizen centers.

For more information contact: Grace Ortiz at 915-834-5772 or graciela.ortiz@dfps.state.tx.us.

General Water Safety Tips by the Drowning Prevention Coalition of El Paso

- Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone
- Read and obey all rules and posted signs
- Swim in areas that are supervised by a lifeguard
- Children or inexperienced swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets when around water
- Watch out for the "dangerous too's" – too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity
- Be knowledgeable of the water environment you are in and its potential hazards
- Know how to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies
- Use a feet first entry when entering the water
- Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating
- Wear sun-block and re-apply often



The Drowning Prevention Coalition of El Paso's **mission** is to promote, develop and support training and community education efforts that prevent drowning, non-fatal drowning's and other water related incidents in El Paso County and the surrounding areas.

For more information contact: <https://www.facebook.com/DrowningPreventionCoalitionofElPaso>

"Respect the Water...Children Drown in Silence"